

April 2003 - Release of Final NEI Input Format (NIF) V3.0

The EPA's Emission Factors and Inventory Group (EFIG) implements and maintains the National Emission Inventory (NEI) Input Format (NIF) for state, local, and tribal agencies to use for transferring criteria and hazardous air pollutant emission inventory data electronically to the EPA. The EFIG has updated the NIF Version 2.0 to Version 3.0. While some tuning has been done for reporting of HAP data, the primary reason for the modification and update to Version 3.0 is to comply with EPA data standards. The EPA's Office of Environmental Information (OEI) is facilitating the Agency's required transition to the final data standards and has been consulted regarding the implementation of the specific data standards relevant to the NIF.

Available Final NIF V3.0 Materials

The following NIFV3.0 items are posted on <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/nif/index.html>.

Announcing Release of NIFV3.0	Acrobat Acrobat
NIFV3.0 specifications	Documented in MS Excel workbook by source type file and in MS Access shell database
NIFV3.0 Code tables	MS Excel
NIFV3.0 User Guide	Acrobat Acrobat
Documentation of NIFV3.0 changes compared to V2.0	MS Excel
Cross-reference CERR* to NIFV3.0 *(Consolidated Emissions Reporting Rule)	Acrobat Acrobat

Included with the NIFV3.0 materials posted on the EPA EFIG Website is a spreadsheet document describing the changes in NIFV3.0 from the NIFV2.0. The documentation of changes is prepared in a manner intended to assist with quick and thorough identification of necessary revisions to NIF data format conversion software. In the spreadsheet workbook, a quick-glance summary is included for each source type file and lists, by record, the changes in the V3.0 compared to the V2.0 and the reason for the change. In addition, each NIF V3.0 record is documented with notation at the bottom describing the changes in specific data element fields and any changes in begin and end positions.

EFIG Action on Draft NIFV3.0 Comments and Other Improvements

In winter 2002, the EFIG posted a draft of the NIF V3.0 for comment and review. Several of the comments and recommendations resulted in modification to the NIF V3.0. One of the most notable outcomes is that the NIFV3.0 will continue to allow users the option of reporting geographic coordinate data for emission release point from either of two coordinate systems - Latitude / Longitude (LATLON), or Universal TransMercator (UTM). In order to comply with the EPA data standard for Latitude/Longitude, any UTM data received in the NIF will be processed by EFIG and converted to, and stored in the NEI data system, as Latitude Measure and Longitude Measure in decimal degrees. In addition to the above case where EFIG determined it more effective to continue implementing current familiar NIF data collection conventions, the

NIF user will recognize and may implement in NIFV3.0, the previous familiar valid code values for Pollutant, while the EPA's Chemical Identification standard requires a different set of chemical ID codes. In order to comply with the chemical ID data standard, EFIG will be responsible for matching the NIF pollutant code data received to the EPA standard chemical ID, and will store both for purposes of public distribution and sharing with other EPA data systems.

Some comments also resulted in changing data type for specific data fields and / or adding additional information in the User Guide about implementing the specified data type.

With the update to NIFV3.0, the NIF User Guide has been updated to include instruction for implementing new data fields, and has been formatted for more efficient use. The NIFV3.0 specifications are provided by source file type - that is, source files Point, Area and Nonroad Mobile, Onroad Mobile, and Biogenics. As inventory data compilers tend to work primarily with one source sector, it is expected that organizing the format instruction by source file type will be more efficient to the NIF user.

Now that the NIFV3.0 is finalized, the EFIG will begin re-tooling the NIF QC software for the V3.0.

Timeline for Using the NIF V3.0

The schedule for using the final NIFV3.0 and retiring the NIF V2.0 is summarized below in terms of EPA's current plan for future NEI data publications, and the state and local agencies' data submittal dates in the Consolidated Emissions Reporting Rule (CERR). Information on the CERR is located on <http://www.epa.gov/ttnchie1/cerr/index.html>. In summary, the NIFV2.0 should continue to be used until the data submittal scheduled for June 2004. The submittal of files in NIFV3.0 should begin with the first submittal of 2002 data, due June 1, 2004.

April 2003	EFIG publishes final NIF V3.0.
By June 1, 2003	State, local, tribal (S/L/T) agencies submit 2001 large point source data in NIFV2.0 or related XML schema *.
Summer 2003	EFIG publishes final version of HAP NEI 1999 in NIFV3.0.
Fall 2003	NIF V2.0 is retired. EFIG publishes first version of criteria NEI 2002 in NIF V3.0 (The first version of 2002 criteria NEI data is grown from the 99NEI and does not include 2002 data updates from S/L/T's.) EPA publishes revised XML schema based on NIF V3.0 content.
June 2004	S/L/T's submit 2002 data for all source types in NIFV3.0 or related XML schema as available.

* XML schema is also an acceptable data transfer format for submitting data to EPA for incorporation into the NEI. The current available XML schema is based on the standards and content of NIFV2.0, and must be updated to align with NIFV3.0.

NIF and the CERR

The final Consolidated Emissions Reporting Rule (CERR) is located on <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/cerr/index.html>. The rule consolidates and modifies emission inventory data reporting requirements previously found in various parts of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Consolidation of reporting requirements is expected to enable State and local agencies to provide more consistent and uniform data. The NIF and XML schema are the acceptable data formats for agencies to use in transferring electronically to EPA the data listed in the CERR. Due to its multi-purpose intent, the NIF and XML schema may also include some data elements which are not required by the CERR.

The NIF specification for each record includes a notation to indicate which data elements in the record is 'Mandatory' or 'Necessary' for reporting criteria and HAP (toxics) air pollutant emissions data. It is important to note that the 'Mandatory' and 'Necessary' designations do not indicate all fields that are required to be submitted to EPA under the CERR. See NIFV3.0 User Guide Section *Data Elements Designated As 'Mandatory' and 'Necessary'* for more explanation of the meaning mandatory and necessary. Included with the NIFV3.0 materials, is a separate cross reference table which lists the required data elements in the CERR, and the corresponding data elements implemented in the NIF V3.0, see document *Cross-reference CERR to NIFV3.0*. This reference may help agencies identify the required CERR data elements within the NIF structure and implementation. As the NIF QC Software is updated for NIFV3.0, a report may be included to indicate whether all CERR-required data elements are completed.